

COMPLETION OF THE LAS VEGAS PROJECT SURE

R. C. Storrie, San Francisco
Capitalist and Contractor,
Agrees to Have Work Done
by March 1, 1918.

East Las Vegas, N. M., June 2.—A contract entered into between R. C. Storrie, a contractor and capitalist of San Francisco, and the Las Vegas grant board, assures the completion of the Las Vegas project, which will bring many acres on the mesa near here into cultivation. The terms of contract provide for construction work to be done by March 1, 1918, or the forfeit of a bond of \$100,000 already furnished by Mr. Storrie, which also is conditioned to provide for the fulfillment of all other portions of the contract.

Mr. Storrie has settled the claims of the Canfield Development company, of Greeley, Colo., against the project, amounting to \$40,000. This assures freedom from litigation due to the starting of work by that company and its later abandonment of the project. It releases the lands previously deeded to the Canfield concern and will liquidate claims of local creditors.

Mr. Storrie is to receive approximately 16,000 acres of land near the project dam, 7,000 acres of which will be under irrigation from it. Other lands to be irrigated total about 4,000 acres.

The grant board will lend Mr. Storrie \$200,000 at 6 per cent to show its good faith and assist in the work. This will be paid out to him as the work progresses, on a 50 per cent basis; that is, from time to time he will be paid half the value of the completed work. This will be repaid on the sale of the lands to be deeded to Mr. Storrie at the completion of the work.

All personal and corporation water rights in the Gallinas river are protected fully by the contract.

Mr. Storrie is one of the best known and most successful contractors in the United States. It was he who built the \$2,000,000 high pressure fire system for San Francisco. At present he is just completing a \$4,000,000 contract in San Francisco for the construction of the Twin Peaks tunnel, a two-mile double-track bore. Mr. Storrie has completed large contracts of various kinds in Florida, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Texas.

The efforts of Captain W. H. Brunton, John Brunton, W. O. Allen, J. H. Dockweiler and C. C. Cragin are responsible for the interesting of Mr. Storrie in the project.

The history of the transaction, in brief, follows:

An article in the San Diego exposition booklet attracted the interest of Colonel Fay, a prominent citizen of San Diego and president of the city council of that municipality. Colonel Fay was impressed, and sent Wilson O. Allen to Las Vegas to investigate. Mr. Allen looked over the project and found it feasible. He so reported to Colonel Fay, who interested certain San Diego people in the promotion of the project. These men would have contracted to build the reservoir, but for the fact that they were involved in unexpected financial difficulties which made further investments impossible.

At this stage John Brunton became interested in the project, and began working with Fay and Allen to bring about its completion. He interested Roger Topp, a former college mate, who recommended that they consult J. H. Dockweiler, the San Francisco engineer. Dockweiler promised to have it investigated.

Captain Brunton went to see the engineer and offered to put up \$20,000 in cash as an evidence of belief in the project and a guarantee of the expense of having a complete and exhaustive examination made by competent engineers. Mr. Dockweiler decided to have the project examined to the bottom.

For this purpose he sent to Las Vegas C. C. Cragin, his chief assistant engineer. Mr. Cragin made a careful survey of the situation, and reported to his chief that the project was feasible.

Mr. Dockweiler is one of the most prominent engineers in the country though best known on the Pacific coast. He is an eminent irrigation engineer, and never has been known to be connected with any project that has proved to be a failure, though he has been called upon to pass upon the feasibility of reclamation works for over thirty years.

Though frequent war scares involving the United States in conflict with Germany and Mexico made promotion of large enterprises extremely difficult, Dockweiler, Cragin, the Bruntons and Allen kept on the job. They met many discouragements, and finally backing out at the last minute, after pronouncing the project entirely to his liking. They finally interested Mr. Storrie, who came here personally, looked over the situation and was convinced that the project not only was feasible but offered an opportunity for a contractor and capitalist to make some money while at the same time helping to upbuild a community.

Mr. Cragin will look after the engineering side of the construction to be done on the grant. He will receive here in personal charge. He said today that of the \$400,000 which it is estimated that the construction work will cost, about \$50,000 will go for material and the remainder for labor. A considerable amount of the money spent for material will be expended here, and of that money paid laborers, at least two-thirds will find its way directly into the hands of the local merchants. Thus the project will begin circulating money long before it is completed.

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